

Cape Elizabeth Pathway Committee March 26, 2008

Minutes

Present: Paul Thelin- Committee Chair
Josef Chalat
Dena DeSena
Howard Littlefield
Suzanne McGinn
Andie Mahoney
George Morse
William Nickerson
Maureen O'Meara - Town Planner

Nate Jones from the Sentry newspaper was also present.

Meeting was open at 7:05p.m. by Chairman Paul Thelin, who noted that Cynthia Dill has been unable to attend the meetings. Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner, said that Wednesdays were bad for her because of her commitments as a member of the Legislature. Andie Mahoney said that the Legislature adjourns in April. Paul Thelin asked if we should approach her about being on the committee in order to preserve a Town Council member on the committee. William Nickerson pointed out that both Cynthia Dill and Mary Ann Lynch were abutters to Shore Road. Suzanne McGinn and others thought that Mary Ann would have liked to be on the committee. Paul said he will contact both Cynthia and Mary Ann.

George Morse made a motion to approve the minutes. William Nickerson seconded the motion. Minutes from February 27, 2008 meeting were approved with thanks. Howard Littlefield will be keeping the records for this meeting.

Andie said she went to Yarmouth and brought back written information on the Beth Condon path in Yarmouth. She gave the information to Maureen so that copies can be made for the committee for the next meeting.

Correspondence

Paul said the only correspondence was from Maureen on "Passive-Activated, Solar-Powered Flashing Bacons for Trail/ Bike Path Crossings find Application." William asked if it was like the lights on the Casco Bay Bridge that are by Commercial Street on ramp? There was a short discussion on location of the lights. Paul said they were motion activated and thanked Maureen for the article.

Review draft Shore Rd. Property owners letter

Paul Thelin said the format was good. He suggested that the letter emphasize that the path

will serve as a safe passage, connect the town center to Fort Williams, and a way to help movement of neighborhoods. The committee is also sensitive to property owners interests. Maureen said she can enlarge that portion of the letter and make it a separate heading.

William liked the letter and asked if the number 30 was necessary? Maureen said it refers to number of the recommendation in the comprehensive plan and she can remove it. There are 91 items in comprehensive plan. The recommendations were classified as either short term, to be completed within 3 years, or long term, to be completed within 4 years to the year 2020. There were 31 items in short category, including the path recommendation.

George liked the reference to hazards for drivers and Maureen said he was the inspiration for that portion of the letter.

Suzanne asked about time frame for meeting with neighbors. Maureen said it was up to the committee to set time frame. Suzanne said it was an on going process and the letter should let them know when we will meet with neighbors.

Paul noted the committee has to make a report to the Council. Maureen said that cost figures were part of the council requirement.

It was suggested by several members to let property owners know that we will meet with them after the summer if they are away.

Joe said it was important to know where the right of way is located before meeting with property owners.

Paul agreed it was a good point to have info in hand for meetings as a visual aid.

Dena wants us to walk the area so we could pin point were the path might go.

George wants virtual pictures.

Maureen said that aerials were available.

Joe said we need to know where the right of way is so we know what is in our way.

Dena suggested that the path should cross Shore Road twice, once at Fort Williams and the other at Robinson woods.

It was suggested to bring a revised letter back to the next meeting to send out to property owners. Maureen said she would change the May to June on the revised letter and provide a revised letter to the committee for review at the next meeting.

R.F.P.

The committee discussed soliciting consultant assistance and reviewed a suggested scope of work prepared by Maureen. In light of the comments made about the need for a survey, Maureen suggested, under scope of work, to move survey to #1, with survey to begin within 30 days of contract being signed.

Paul said private properties are impacted by the location of right of way. An updated survey map is a useful tool and reference point for property owners. Can't we bifurcate the scope and do the survey work first? Maureen reminded him that an RFP would still be needed just for the survey work.

Howard suggested that it would be more efficient to group every thing together under one RFP and get an engineer on board. The committee could still be in charge of the timing of needs.

Joe said any consultant will say you need a survey. For example, Steve Mohr would say that. Physiologically we understand surveys, but in the end we need the whole package. In the end, the Town owns the survey so it has value beyond this project.

Paul said we do not want to let the experts run your show.

Bill Nickerson said we should meet the consultants but not let them drive us prematurely.

Dena said we should survey both sides of road.

Suzanne said the best place to cross Shore Rd is the main entrance to Fort Williams.

William asked Maureen to revise the RFP to spell out Rd. (road).

Joe asked that the proposal ask for the hourly fee Schedule.

William requested that we ask about the way they bill out.

Joe suggested that we get a total price on each piece of work.

Maureen said she understands the committee wants her to go head with RFP. She will e-mail the revised document to all and asks that committee members use reply all with their comments. Maureen will then ask Paul Thelin to confirm the final draft and then send it out. With this schedule, the proposals will be back and available for review for the next meeting.

Path Location

An updated sheet was past out titled "Comparison of Land and Water Side of Shore Rd for path."

Dena suggested that if the path crossed over at Fort Williams and just before Pond Cove, there would be 33 properties and 5 within 35' of the right-of-way.

William added information that there are 27 telephone poles on the land side of Shore Rd and 68 on the water side.

George added stone wall information: 1105 feet on land side, 1925 feet on water side. George noted that he did not count stone walls if they were located outside of the right of way.

Andie confirmed that if we use transportation standards for a 2-way bike path, the facility must be 10 feet wide. The committee generally did not favor a 10' wide path.

Joe favors placing the far edge of the path on the edge of right way. Joe showed a picture of where the path might be separated by a row of trees. The separation should be 5 feet to 6 feet to qualify as an important separation from Shore Road. The proposal could include some plantings to separate the path from the road.

Suzanne noted that the Midwest has metro paths funded with federal transportation dollars. They are two way bike lanes, 10 feet wide.

Paul asked if this would only be a seasonal path.

Howard said the Town has a multi use tractor to plow and they would probably do this path when they do the paths in Fort Williams.

Paul asked if the path has to be paved to be plowed.

Howard said he didn't think so as the town also has a sweeper.

Andie acknowledged that there could be difficulty accommodating some land owners. We should keep in mind, however, that we are creating a trail that could be there forever. If the water side is the better location, we should go with that location and then work with land owners. With that said, she thinks the land side is looking better and better.

Dena said it would be clearer if we walk Shore Rd. A survey will help. Have we ever thought of installing the path in increments?

Andie said that Yarmouth did their path in increments due to funding limitations, but the final cost is more expensive.

Joe asked what process we should use.

Maureen reminded the committee that a report to Town Council is required. A couple of public forums, in addition to the meetings with the abutters, would be a good idea. The committee is working for the Town Council.

Joe asked what happens if some properties owner object .

Maureen said that you do not need the permission of abutting property owners if the path is located in the right of way. Every effort, however, should be made to work with the abutting property owners to preserve the character of Shore Rd and to build political support for the project. If you present the whole product to town council with some support, it has a better chance of being accepted.

Howard ran a slide show of pictures of Shore Rd. The committee discussed land and water side while viewing pictures.

The committee agreed to meet and walk Shore Rd. The site walk was set up for April 9th at 9:30 AM at main entrance of Fort Williams. If the site walk had to be canceled due to weather, that would be done by 3:30 PM on 8th.

Adjourn at 9:25 PM

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Respectively submitted,

Howard Littlefield